

"Bully-Free Schools"

Improving School Climate thru Coordinated School Health

Purpose: Create a safe, caring environment where children can learn



Unique contribution: Using an evidence-based process *to teach* children how to behave and function as future citizens, *instead of punishing* them *and hoping* their behavior will change



Critical Components of the Programmatic Intervention:

The NEED that is addressed thru this intervention is: to be a safe and supportive school free from aggressive behaviors

Some indicators of this NEED are:

- student/staff observed peer to peer aggression
- student/staff observed adult mistreatment toward students (Bully-Free Schools Survey)
- school data on absenteeism, physical fights, threats, other aggression

The CRITICAL FEATURES of this intervention are:

- *Creating a Positive School Climate*
- *Clear Limits & Consequences* – for aggressive behavior (staff consensus)
- *Effective Social Emotional Skill Building* - using
 - *reflection* to help students chose non aggressive behavior
 - class meetings to empower and mobilize bystanders
 - social/emotional skill building curriculum (Michigan Model)
- *Strong Parent Partnerships* – engaging parents, not blaming them for the school problems

Visions of this in Action – Adults are courteous and respectful, and greet EVERY student positively. Adults are present, observant and engaged in the hallways, cafeteria, bathrooms etc., show positive interest in kids, and actively engage them in dialogue. When aggressive behavior is observed or reported, adults intervene consistently and submit a written behavior report. Investigations are completed to determine consequences earned, according to the behavior rubric, and students are coached through a *Reflection Process*. Parents receive positive phone calls from staff, who demonstrate warmth and collaboration, even when kids have chosen aggressive behavior. Students behave non-aggressively toward peers and are actively engaged in learning.